(b) DTC has informed that they have not received any suggestion in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of National Ports Authority

83. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 319 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised the details of the proposal for setting up of National Ports Authority; and

(b) if so, by when it is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No. Sir.

(a) The Question does not arise.

Concessional Passes for Journalists

84. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue concessional passes for journalists to enable them to travel in D.T.C. buses; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The facility of concessional passes has been already extended by DTC to the journalists. All route concessional passes are issued to accredited press representatives at the rate of Rs. 70/- per pass per month to enable them to travel in its buses. These passes are valid on all types of city buses including night services except Indira Gandhi International Airport Coach and tourist services.

Procuring of Phosphoric Acid Carriers by Shipping Corporation of India

85. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India propose to procure three phosphoric acid carriers; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the name of the country from which these will be procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Phosphoric Acid Carriers are to be procured from Spain at a price of US $ 29.1 million each. The Government of Spain have agreed to provide a soft loan to meet a part of the credit requirements.

Enhancing of Financial Powers of Port Trusts

86. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enhanced the financial powers of Port Trusts in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) In May, 1988 Government revised the delegation of powers to the Port Trusts and *inter alia* enhanced the powers of Port Trust Boards to sanction new works or appliances for plan schemes in

respect of Bombay, Calcutta and Nhava-Sheva from Rs. 150 lakhs to Rs. 400 lakhs; Madras from Rs. 100 lakhs to Rs. 400 lakhs; Cochin and Visakhapatnam from Rs. 100 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs and other ports from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs.

Leasing of aircraft by Indian Airlines

87. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given blanket permission to Indian Airlines to procure aircraft on lease; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the number of aircraft procured by Indian Airlines so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, with the approval of the Government, entered into an agreement with M/s Airbus Industries for the purchase of 19 A-320 aircraft for deliveries during 1989-90. The purchase agreement *inter alia* provides for supply of Airbus A300 and Boeing 737 aircraft on lease to Indian Airlines to meet its interim capacity requirements. In terms of this agreement, Indian Airlines has so far taken on lease the following aircraft :—

Airbus A300 aircraft	— Two
Boeing-737 aircraft	— Five

One Airbus A300 aircraft taken on lease met with an accident in September, 1986 and was declared a total loss.

Indian Airlines has also taken on lease the following aircraft :—

BAE-146	— One
TU-154M	— One
A310 (from Air-India)	— One

Conversion of Hassan-Mangalore MG-Line

88. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert Hassan-Mangalore metre gauge line into broad gauge and to construct a direct broad gauge rail line from Hassan to Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects, their costs and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rate of delays in Indian Airlines flights

89. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the average rate of delays in Indian Airlines on their domestic routes during 1986, 1987, 1988 and January, 1989;

(b) what are the reasons for increase; if any, in the average rate;

(c) what is the average rate of delays in the foreign airlines on their domestic routes; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Indian Airlines to curtail the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) The average rate of delays to Indian Airlines flights on the domestic sectors during the period 1986, 1987